

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

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TAGS: BBAK, CD
SUBJ: AGRICOLA

SUMMARY: DCM AND ECON OFF MET AUGUST 8 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SIX GOC MINISTRIES IN ATTEMPT TO FIND COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO AGRICOLA QUESTION.

1. FOLLOWING AN INITIATIVE BY DIRECTOR ECONOMY KOSNAYE NGANGBET, DCM AND ECON OFFICER MET AUGUST 8 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIX CHADIAN MINISTRIES CONCERNED WITH THE AGRICOLA PROBLEM. INCLUDED IN THE MEETING WERE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON TOURA GABA, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY DIRECTOR GERNERAL, DIRECTOR OF WATER AND GORESTS, DIRECTOR GENERAL SONACOT, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

2. ECONOMY DIRECTOR NGANGBET LED OFF BY OUTLINING THE VARIOUS STAGES IN DEVELOPMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN AGRICOLA DN GOC FROM EARLIEST INCEPTION, WITH SIGNING OF THE 1974 AGREEMENT, TO LATEST OPIC LETTER
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SENT AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. AN HOUR AND HALF DISCUSSION THEN SEARCHED FRUITLESSLY FOR A MECHANISM TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH AGRICOLA. ALL CHADIAN PARTICIPANTS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE ONLY SOUND BASIS TO CONTINUE WAS TO HAVE AN AGRICOLA REPRESENTATIVE COME TO NDJAMENA OR A GOC DELEGATION GO TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH

THE COMPANY AND OPIC.

3. WHEN BOTH AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA AND DCM POINTED OUT THAT AGRICOLA HAD REFUSED CATEGORICALLY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS AGAIN, THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION CHANGED. ECONOMY DIRECTOR NGANGBET AND AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO U.S. - CHADIAN RELATIONS AND COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY IF A SMALL PRIVATE COMPANY WITH DUBIOUS CREDENTIALS COULD USE THE WEIGHT OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BLACKMAIL THE GOC INTO ACCEPTING ITS CLAIM. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO POSSIBLE ACTION UNDER HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT.

4. NGANGBET MADE A DIRECT AND EXTREMELY FERVENT REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR BRADFORD TO HELP THE GOC IN ITS POSITION OF WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. STRONGLY SECONDED BY AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA, THE TWO SAID THE BALL WAS CLEARLY IN THE AMERICAN COURT BECAUSE ALL OF CHADIANS WERE PREPARED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO PERMIT AGRICOLA TO BEGIN WORK AGAIN ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS. THEY ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR BRADFORD WRITE A BEGIN UNDERLINE TO TEMPER THE AFFAIR AND SAVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHAD.

5. WHILE THERE APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIC FACTS CONTAINED IN EMBASSY FILES AND AMONG THE GOC PARTICIPANTS, IT APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC FACTS CONTAINED IN EMBASSY FILES AND AMONG THE GOC PARTICIPANTS, IT APPEARED OBVIOUS THAT THE CHADIANS INTERPRET DETAILS VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN AGRICOLA AS TO WHO PUSHED JOHN. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE CHADIANS DO NOT SEEM PREPARED TO COMPREHEND AGRICOLA'S FINAL TERMINATION OF ITS DEALINGS WITHIN CHAD AND STRESS ONLY THEIR COMPLETE WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN AGAIN ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY BASIS. TO ESTABLISH THIS BASIS, DIRECTOR NGANGBET READ THE GROUP A JANUARY 29, 1976, MEMO FROM AGRICOLA WHICH SET FORTH PROPOSALS TO MODIFY THE BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE GOC. NGANGBET FELT THIS WAS A COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE BASIS TO BEGIN AGAIN AND PROVIDED A COPY OF THE LETTER, WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO OPIC.

COMMENT: IT IS EMBASSY OPINION THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS AND WE ARE WITNESSING A DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF BETWEEN AGRICOLA AND GOC, WHOSE BASIC POSITIONS ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED AND OPIC TO CONTACT LICHENSTEIN

ONE MORE TIME WITH LATEST CHADIAN OFFER. AMBASSADOR
TOURA GAB RETURNS TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AND
WILL BE ABAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS. BRADFORD

NOTE BY OCT: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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